

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABU DH 01903 270903Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 SSO-00 /011 W
-----095117 270905Z /10 R
O 270830Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6290

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 1903

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM TC
SUBJ: UAE HUMAN RIGHTS EVALUATION PLAN

REF: STATE 147813

1. EMBASSY HAS NO MAJOR DIFFICULTIES WITH CEPs PREPARED BY
DEPARTMENT AND OFFERS FOLLOWING COMMENTS FOR CLAIFICATION
PURPOSES.

2. PARA 2A (1). WHILE WE REALIZE THIS IS DRAWN ALMOST VER-
BATIM FROM ABU DHABI'S 1814 REREADING OUR STATEMENT THAT UAE
CITIZENS CAN BE SUBJECT TO "ARBITRARY ARREST OR IMPRISONMENT
IF CENTRAL AUTHORITY FEELS THREATENED" MAY GIVE UNFAIR IMPRESSION
THAT UAEG CONDONES CONTRAVENTION OF ITS STATED LAWS BY ONE OR
MORE IF ITS OWN INSTRUMENTALITIES. TO CLARIFY WHAT WE TRYING
SAY, WOULD PROPOSE ADDING FOLLOWING SENTENCE TO PRECEDING
PARAGRAPH AFTER WORDS "FREEDOM FROM ARBITRARY SEARCH".
QUOTE THE UAE DOES NOT YET HAVE A WELL ARTICULATED BODY
OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL LAW. IN ABSENCE OF WELL CODIFIED
LAW, THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ENJOYS A BROADER LATITUDE
OF PUBLICLY ACCEPTED ACTION VIS A VIS INDIVIDUALS THAN
EXISTS IN MORE LEGALLY STRUCTURED SOCIETIES. END QUOTE
FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH SHOULD ALSO BE CHANGED TO READ
"CITIZENS CAN BE SUBJECT BY THEIR ACTIONS TO BROAD RANGE
OF GOVERNMENT ACTIONS INCLUDING SUMMARY ARREST OR
IMPRISONMENT IF CENTRAL AUTHORITY FEELS THREATENED, BUT
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FAIR PUBLIC TRIAL IN VIRTUALLY EVERY CASE IS GUARANTEED."

3. PARA 2(B). CHANGE NATURAL BORN CITIZENS TO "NATIVE
BORN CITIZENS".

4. PARA 5. SECOND SENTENCE REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS VIO-

LATIONS BEING ISOLATED AND RESTRICTED TO "FOREIGN GUEST WORKERS" DOES NOT SEEM FIT IN THIS SECTON WHICH REFERS TO INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. MOREOVER, AS FORMULATED, SENTENCE WOULD APPEAR TO BE AN ADMISSION OF UNSPECIFIED NUMBER HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST "GUEST WORKERS" WHICH WE DO NOT BELIEVE IS JUSTIFIED BY THE EVIDENCE. LAST YEAR, A GROUP OF FOREIGN WORK YRS WAS SUMMARILY DEPARTED FROM DUBAI DURING STRIKE (ABU DHABI A-81 OF OCT 30, 1976). HOWEVER, DEGREE TO WHICH THIS TYPE OF GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO FOREIGN WORKERS VIOLATES HUMAN RIGHTS IS QUESTIONABLE PARTICULARLY SINCE MANY ARE IN UAE ILLEGALLY. (LONDON TIMES OF JUNE 21, 1977 ESTIMATES THAT 100,000 OF THEM AR ILLEGAL ENTRANTS.) IN OUR VIEW FINAL JUDGEMENT AGAINST UAE ON THIS COUNT SHOULD AWAIT A MORE WELL DEFINED CONCEPTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

5. PARA 5B -ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT CHARACTERIZATION OF UAE'S RECORD OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS BETTER THAN "GENERALLY GOOD". IT WOULD BE MORE ACCURATE TO REMOVE WORD "GENERALLY".

6. AN ADDITIONAL COURSE OF ACTION TO ENCOURAGE HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRESS IN UAE AND UAE SUPPORT FOR US EFFORT IN THIS REGARD WOULD BE TO: QUOTE ENCOURAGE UAE INVOLVEMENT IN UN AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES IN HEALTH AND LABOR
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FIELDS TO GIVE THE UAE ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND EXPERTIESE ON BEST WAY TO ACHIEVE DEVELOPMENT OF A DEMOCRATIC AND HUMANE SOCIETY. END QUOTE. UAE HAS SOUGHT A SEAT IN ECOSOC FOR 1978-80 TERM AND THIS SEEMS TO US TO BE EVIDENCE OF ITS SINCERITY AND DESVSE TO PROGRESS ECONOMICALLY AND SOCIALLY, AND WE COULD REINFORCE THAT DESIRE BY SUPPORTING UAE CONDIDACY.
DICKMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ABUDH01903
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770228-0767
Format: TEL
From: ABU DHABI
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770615/aaaaanfe.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cbbb7e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 77 STATE 147813
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2024962
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UAE HUMAN RIGHTS EVALUATION PLAN
TAGS: SHUM, TC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cbbb7e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009